I N THE TITLE:

Please amend the title to appear as follows:

PLUNGING SIDESHAFT ASSEMBLY WITH ~~VL~~ JOINT

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please add the following new paragraph after paragraph [0010]:

[0010.1] Figure 2C shows a schematic illustration of the inner and outer joint part ball track relationships with respect to the joint axis.

Please replace paragraph [0013] with the following amended paragraph:

[0013] The longitudinal plunging unit 41 comprises a sleeve 42 with first ball grooves 43, a journal 44 with second ball grooves 45, torque transmitting balls 46 running in pairs of first ball grooves 43 and second ball grooves 45, as well as a ball cage 47 which holds the balls at a constant distance from one another. The balls 46 are held in groups in pairs of the first and second ball grooves 43, 45. The journal 22 of the inner joint part is integral with the journal 44 of the axial plunging unit.

Please replace paragraph [0015] with the following amended paragraph:

[0015] In Figure 2, any details identical to those shown in Figure 1 have been given the same reference numbers. To that extent, reference is made to the description of Figure 1. Figure 2 deviates from Figure 1 in that the shaft journal ~~22~~ 122 is inserted into the inner joint part 17. In addition, the shaft journal ~~22~~ 122 and the journal 44 integrally connected thereto are provided in the form of hollow journals. The journal 44 can be fixed to the inner joint part 117 by, for example, friction welding (Figure 4). The inner joint part ~~17~~ 117 does not comprise a purely spherical outer face, but an outer face ~~28~~ 128 which includes a spherical portion ~~28~~ 128 and two conical faces 37, 38.

Please add the following two new paragraphs after paragraph [0015]:

[0015.1] Figure 2 also shows the inventive assembly as part of a driveshaft including a second constant velocity 5 at the other end of the shaft opposite the constant velocity joint 11. The constant velocity joint 5 can be any known type of constant velocity joint, depending upon the application under consideration.

[0015.2] Figure 2C schematically illustrates the relationship between the case 20, the outer joint part 12 with first ball tracks 14 forming first angles of intersection α, β, and the inner joint part 117 with second ball tracks 18 forming second angles of intersection α_2, β_2 with the joint axis. The track relationships are the same for each of the embodiments illustrated.

Please replace paragraph [0016] with the following amended paragraph:

[0016] In Figure 3, any details identical to those in Figure 1 have been given the same reference numbers. To that extent, reference is made to Figure 1. The shaft journal 22, just like the journal 22 in Figure 1, is produced so as to be integrally connected to the inner joint part 17. Figure 3 deviates from Figure 1 in that the base part is provided in the form of a plate metal cover 29 in which, however, the second stop face 27 is arranged in the same way as in the embodiment according to Figure 1. The connection of the outer joint part ~~12~~ 112 with an attaching part has to be effected directly via the annular member ~~13~~ 113.

Please replace paragraph [0017] with the following amended paragraph:

[0017] In Figure 4, any details identical to those shown in Figure 1 have been given the same reference numbers. To that extent, reference is made to the description of Figure 1. The shaft journal ~~22~~ 122 is provided in the form of a hollow journal, as in Figure 2, but it is attached to the inner joint part ~~17~~ 117 via a friction weld 30. The shape of the inner joint part ~~17~~ 117 is as described in connection with Figure 2. The plate metal cover 29 has the shape as already described in connection with Figure 3. To that extent, reference is made to the respective descriptions.

Please replace paragraph [0018] with the following amended paragraph:

[0018] In Figure 5, any details identical to those shown in Figure 1 have been given the same reference numbers. To that extent, reference is made to the description of Figure 1. The shaft journal 22 and the journal 44 have the same shape as that shown in Figure 1. The plate metal cover 29 corresponds to the embodiment illustrated in Figures 3 and 4. The annular member ~~13~~ 113 deviates from the above-mentioned embodiments in that it comprises an inner cylindrical guiding face 25 which only permits radial support for the spherical outer face 28 of the cage ~~20~~ 120. Instead, the cage ~~20~~ 120 comprises an inner cylindrical guiding face ~~31~~ 131 which radially supports the inner joint part 17, as well as an annular stop face ~~32~~ 132 on which the inner joint part 17 is radially supported in the first axial direction R1. In addition, as in the preceding embodiments, the cage ~~20~~ 120 is supported in the second axial direction R2 on the annular second stop face 27 in the plate metal cover 29.

Please replace paragraph [0019] with the following amended paragraph:

[0019] In Figure 6, any details identical to those shown in Figure 1 have been given the same reference numbers. To that extent, reference is made to the description of Figure 1. In particular, the shaft journal 22 and the journal 44 are designed as shown in Figure 1. As in the previous Figure 5, in this case, too, the inner guiding face 25 of the annular member 13 is purely cylindrical and serves only to provide radial guidance for the cage ~~20~~ 220. The attaching cap ~~16~~ 116 is designed in such a way that it forms the first annular stop face ~~26~~ 126 for the cage ~~20~~ 220 on which the cage ~~20~~ 220 is supported in a first axial direction R1. The base ~~15~~ 115 is a solid part and produced so as to be integral with a joint journal 23, but widened on the inside in such a way that it is not in contact with the cage ~~20~~ 220. Instead, the cage ~~20~~ 220 itself comprises an inner cylindrical guiding face 31 and an annular stop face ~~33~~ 133 which axially supports the inner joint part 17 in a second direction R2.

Please replace paragraph [0020] with the following amended paragraph:

[0020] In Figure 7, any details identical to those shown in Figure 1 have been given the same reference numbers. To that extent, reference is made to the description of Figure 1. In particular, the shaft journal 22 is produced so as to be integral with the inner joint part 17 and the journal 44 and designed in the same way as shown in Figure 1. The annular member ~~13~~ 213 comprises an inner purely cylindrical guiding face 25 which supports the cage 120 in the radial direction only. As in Figure 5, the cage 120 comprises an inner guiding face ~~31~~ 131 and an annular stop face ~~32~~ 132 which axially supports the inner joint part 17 in the first direction R1. The base ~~15~~ 215 which is provided in the form of a solid part and is connected to the joint journal 23 is again widened in such a way that it has no contact with the cage ~~20~~ 120, as shown in Figure 6. A central stop member 35 which is axially supported in the second direction R2 on a stop face 36 in the base is inserted into the inner joint part 17.

Please replace paragraph [0021] with the following amended paragraph:

[0021] In Figure 8, the front closing cap ~~16~~ has been removed, whereas all the remaining details correspond to those of Figure 3. In the plan view of the annular member ~~13~~ 113 it can be seen that the first ball tracks 14 of the outer joint part form alternating first angles of intersection with the joint axis A. In the plan view of the inner joint part 17 it can be seen that the second ball tracks 18 of the inner joint part form alternating second angles of intersection with the joint axis A. First and second ball ~~tacks~~ tracks 14, 18 associated with one another form angles of intersection which are identical in size and which are symmetric relative to the joint axis A. The first and second ball tracks associated with one another accommodate a ball 19. The balls 19 are all held in a cage 20.